

American Academy of Pediatrics

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Hawaii Chapter

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Dear Council Members,

We strongly support Bill 70, which would prohibit smoking and vaping in a motor vehicle when a minor is present on O'ahu.

The Hawaii Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) is a voluntary organization of over 200 pediatricians in Hawaii. Our mission is to attain optimal physical, mental and social health and well being for infants, children, adolescents and young adults in Hawaii.

Secondhand smoke in a car can be up to ten times more toxic than what the EPA considers unhealthy air quality, even when a window is down. Children do not have a choice when they are placed in cars with smoking adults, and therefore are forced to inhale toxins that affect their health. This exposure affects them significantly, even if the car windows are open. Tobacco smoke and byproducts cling to the car's interior and to the child's hair, skin, and clothing.

Secondhand smoke increases the risk for sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), asthma exacerbation, pneumonia, bronchitis, middle ear infection, and other health issues especially in children and infants. Inhaling secondhand smoke is especially harmful because children's lungs are still developing.

Electronic cigarettes and vaping devices should also be included in these regulations, too. Electronic smoking devices take a mixture of chemicals, including nicotine, and vaporize it at high temperatures. These devices emit nicotine byproducts and a variety of other chemicals, and they have not been fully studied in regards to safety. E-cigarette vapor has been shown to include carcinogens and toxins including nicotine, nitrosamines, diethylene glycol, formaldehyde, and acetaldehyde. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has exhibited concern regarding the safety of electronic smoking devices as well.

Honolulu has been a leader in protecting the public and its visitors from the dangers of secondhand smoke, and now the City Council has the opportunity to protect its children and young people from the harmful impacts of smoking in a vehicle. Passing smoke-free cars into law will help decrease our children's exposure to secondhand smoke and educate parents and other adults about the dangers of smoking in a car when a minor is present.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide this testimony. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Mae Kyono, MD

President, American Academy of Pediatrics – Hawaii Chapter

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